FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

U.S., French Headquarters Bombings — Two massive and almost simultaneous explosions demolished the U.S. and French military headquarters in Beirut early on 23 October, killing at least 162 U.S. Marines and 41 French soldiers, Beirut radio reported. Around 100 Marines and 14 Frenchmen were injured in the explosions and rescue teams came under sniper fire as they worked throughout the day to evacuate the dead and wounded from the rubble, according to the radio. The attack on the U.S. command at Beirut International Airport was perpetrated by a truck that sped toward the building and detonated around 900 kg of explosives, Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios reported citing a Marine spokesman. The French headquarters was subjected to a similar attack, Voice of Lebanon said.

Beirut airport remained open in spite of the bombings and both French Defense Minister Charles Hernu and President Francois Mitterrand flew into Beirut in the aftermath of the attacks, according to Beirut radio. After arriving "unexpectedly" aboard a military plane on 24 October, Mitterrand inspected the site of the explosion at the French headquarters and held talks with President Amin al-Jumayyil, the radio noted.

Responsibility Claim, Allegations — A previously unknown group called the Free Islamic Revolutionary Movement claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks in a telephone call reported by AFP. The caller stated that the movement pursues a "Greater Syria" that would support the return of the Palestinians to Palestine, the "liberation of Lebanon from imperialist and isolationist forces," and the "strengthening of the Muslim revolution in the Arab world." Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio viewed the attacks as a Syrian attempt to force the Multinational Force out of Lebanon, adding that "it can be assumed" that the attack was staged by "extreme Shi'ites" from Husayn al-Musawi's Islamic Amal Movement. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Iranian and Syrian intelligence officers met at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut "10 days ago" to plan "acts of terrorism" against the U.S. Marines. In another report the radio noted the arrival "this week" of Syrian intelligence officers in Beirut to undertake specific tasks.

Reaction — An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman "denied" the secretary of defense's allegations of Iranian involvement in the attack, stating that U.S. authorities are "incapable of correctly assessing" the Lebanese people's resistance and are trying to "divert" international public opinion from their "consecutive defeats" in Lebanon, according to Tehran radio. IRNA commented that the United States is trying to exploit the bombing to conspire against Iran and said the United States is blaming Iran in order to prepare for a military crisis in the Gulf and an expanded U.S. military presence in the area. In the first official Syrian comment, Syria's ambassador to the United States said the attacks "do not serve Syrian objectives" in Lebanon and expressed deep regret over the deaths of the Marines, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Damascus radio and television limited their coverage of the "horrific explosions" to factual reportage citing foreign official statements and media.

Walid Junblatt, leader of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), also denied involvement, stating in a telephone statement to Paris Radio that he had "nothing to do with this" and that the only way out of the current situation is to find a stable and genuine political solution. He added that the withdrawal of the French force in Lebanon would be "disastrous," but noted that the American presence "is another matter."

Meanwhile, a Lebanese Cabinet statement reported by Beirut radio noted that after a series of meetings and contacts the Cabinet held an extraordinary session to discuss the "crime" and the ensuing "great tragedy." Following the session, President al-Jumayyil sent messages to the French and U.S. presidents expressing his and the Lebanese nation's condolences, the radio reported. Beirut radio also noted that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri had made statements denouncing the bombings. For its part, Voice of Lebanon radio also reported denunciations and expressions of condolences to the United States and France by Phalange Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Reacting to the bomb attack on the French contingent, Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy affirmed that the French contingent will remain in Lebanon, according to AFP. On the other hand, External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson, cited by AFP, said France will "reexamine" whether or not French forces are truly necessary in Lebanon, while Defense Minister Hernu stated in Beirut that he did not believe that the time was appropriate for discussion of French withdrawal, adding that he believes the French presence "has a significance," according to Beirut radio.

Israel is prepared to put "any help required" at the disposal of the United States or France, Jerusalem radio reported, and ITIM reported that IDF units in Lebanon have stepped up their alert following the bomb blasts. President Hayim Herzog, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed their condolences to the United States and France, according to the same sources.

Tripoli radio stated that the bombing was the Lebanese patriotic and progressive forces' "direct answer" to the U.S. "big stick" policy in Lebanon.

Under the headline "Israel's Violence Is the Cause of the Tragedy," the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Jumhuriyah* declared that this event "must not divert" the Arabs' attention from the "reality of the reason" for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, according to Cairo radio. Similarly, WAKH cited Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adsani and Foreign Affairs Ministry Under Secretary Rashid 'Abdallah ar-Rashid as shar-

ing the view that the United States "is reaping what Israel sowed" and is responsible because of its approval of Israel's acts in Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Saudi ambassador to the United States expressed Saudi Arabia's "strongest indignation" at the "terrorist and destructive" acts in Beirut, SPA reported.

Other Political, Military Developments — The National Dialogue Conference will begin at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva on 31 October, according to a Lebanese source cited by Radio Monte Carlo. PSP leader Junblatt had earlier stipulated that the talks should be in a hotel rather than in the Lebanese Embassy, SANA reported.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Army positions around Beirut came under fire both before and after the explosions at the U.S. and French buildings, according to Beirut radio. In southern Lebanon, one Israeli soldier was injured and three local residents were killed when an IDF patrol clashed with rioters in As-Sarafand, the IDF spokesman announced on 23 October in a statement carried by ITIM. The villagers were protesting arrests of local inhabitants by the Israelis and the IDF "siege" of the village, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation — Iraq launched six surface-to-surface missiles against the Iranian towns of Dezful and Masjed Soleyman on 22 October, killing 145 people, wounding 500 others, and damaging "hundreds" of buildings, Tehran radio reported. Confirming the attack, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio that Iraqi missile batteries had directed "deterrent strikes" at selected Iranian targets in response to Iran's latest offensive against Iraqi territory. Earlier, in a statement carried by the radio, an Iraqi spokesman revealed that the Iraqi Navy has mined the approaches to Bandar-e Khomeyni and warned international shipping against entering the area.

Meanwhile, Iran claimed further successes in its offensive in the northern sector, announcing in communiques broadcast by Tehran radio that Iranian forces captured over 700 square km of territory including strategic heights overlooking the Iraqi border town of Panjwin. The Iranians killed or wounded over 3,500 Iraqis, took more than 700 prisoners, destroyed 40 tanks and personnel carriers, and shot down an Iraqi plane, the communiques claimed. They also captured the headquarters of Kurdish and Mojahedin-e Khalq rebels southwest of Sar Dasht, according to IRNA.

Communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses and Baghdad radios asserted that Iraqi forces foiled Iranian attempts to surround Panjwin and recaptured another hill from the enemy. Iran lost 3,235 men killed in its offensive and failed on all axes, the commander of Iraq's I Army Corps stated in remarks reported by INA on 23 October. He warned the Iranians were preparing to attack again. An Iraqi spokesman cited by Baghdad radio subsequently announced that Iran launched another "foolhardy action" on the night of 23-24 October. Tehran radio confirmed the new attack, saying that Iranian troops launched the "second phase" of their offensive late on 23 October, capturing more territory and taking 80 prisoners.

Iranian Comment — The depth of Iran's offensive along a 160-km front in the north will become apparent in a couple of weeks, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio. Admitting that Iran's offensive ability is limited, he said the depth of the attack may depend on "how far we can go." Iran decided to stage a new offensive to forestall an imminent Iraqi action aimed at proving that Iran is afraid, he said, and the attack was launched on the night when the Iraqis had canceled their military alert. Addressing his remarks to the United States, France, and "reactionaries" in the Middle East, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the offensive was also designed to make them comprehend that superpowers cannot determine the course of the war. Iran would like to have good relations with them and pursue a quiet life, he went on, but they started the "fire" and must therefore be burned by it so that they will never again attempt such action. In his Arabic sermon, the Majlis speaker claimed that if Iraq's "madness and recklessness" forces Iran to take the "bitter and undesirable" step of closing the Strait of Hormuz, "no one will be able to prevent us."

Iraqi Diplomacy, Mobilization — Iraqi Revolution Command Council Member Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Oman on 22 October at the start of a Gulf tour during which he will deliver messages to local leaders from President Saddam Husayn and hold talks on the war, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio noted. Meanwhile, thousands of Iraqi Kurds have volunteered for duty in the Panjwin sector, the radio said.

Alleged Assassination Attempts in Iraq, Syria

Iraqi officials expressed "astonishment" at the London *Daily Mail*'s 21 October report that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn recently escaped assassination, according to the Amman paper *Sawt ash-Sha'b*. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian authorities have arrested 12 Army officers in connection with an abortive assassination attempt against President Hafiz al-Asad in which eight people were killed.

PLO Affairs

The "Palestinian masses" in Libya took control of the Fatah offices in Tripoli in the name of the "revolutionary movement" within Fatah and issued a statement denouncing the Fatah representative in Libya as one of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's "stooges," JANA reported on 21 October. Meanwhile, rival Palestinian factions exchanged fire in Damascus when 'Arafat forces attempted to retake Fatah offices previously seized by the dissidents, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Earlier, Al-Asad held lengthy talks with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan, who had arrived in Damascus after meeting with King Fahd in Jidda, the radio reported citing WAFA. Al-Hasan subsequently described his talks with the Syrian leader as "good" and expressed hope that an 'Arafat-Al-Asad meeting will be arranged, the *Jordan Times* said. Nevertheless, 'Arafat again warned of a possible Syrian military operation against him and his forces in northern Lebanon and also revealed that he expects an Israeli operation in the north, according to a press interview reported by KUNA.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is not a guardian of oil supplies to the West, so if Iran seeks to cut off the oil it will be the "duty of those who benefit from this oil" to take appropriate action, "whether they are from the East or from the West," Defense Minister Prince Sultan stated at a Rome press conference reported by Riyadh radio.

Libya

Compensation Issue — Thousands of "knights" on horseback arrived in Tripoli where they demonstrated outside the Italian Embassy to affirm Libya's demand for reparations for the damage caused by "Italian colonialism," JANA reported. The demonstrators handed a memorandum to the Italian ambassador stressing that unless Italy agrees to provide compensation, the Libyan people will be obliged to "obtain their rights via international platforms and through the use of other means."

Report on Egypt — Tripoli radio claimed that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has dismissed his political adviser Usamah al-Baz.

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AFP: Troops Exchange Fire With Pakistan on Border

BK220939 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 22 (AFP) — Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire on the countries' joint border in Jammu and Kashmir State, but there were no casualties, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) news agency said today.

The agency, quoting Indian official sources, said that Pakistani troops first opened fire near Kasalian yesterday and in retaliation, Indian troops returned the fire.

It was the second time in a week that border troops exchanged fire, following firing on October 16 near Baigal Dara village, UNI said.

Meanwhile, Indian police in Kashmir State arrested a man alleged to be a Pakistani spy. UNI identified the man as Mohammed Zim and said arms and documents were recovered from him.

There was, however, no official confirmation here either of the reports of exchange of fire or the arrest.

U.S. Sale of Harpoon Missiles to Pakistan Cited

BK211634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Washington has signed an agreement with Islamabad for the sale of Harpoon missiles to the Pakistan Navy. According to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, there is no ceiling on the number of missiles to be acquired by Pakistan. The agreement was signed in Washington on Wednesday last. The first consignment of six Harpoons costing a million dollars each is to be delivered by December next year. The agreement has been signed despite strong protests by India that the supply will precipitate a new arms race in the region.

Embassy in Islamabad Denies Interference Charges

BK230712 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] An Indian Embassy press release in Islamabad has pointed out that certain elements interested in arousing the passions of the Pakistani people against India are making false and mischievous charges against it. It has denied the charges by participants at a symposium organized by the government-controlled *Pakistan Times* in Lahore. The press release has described the allegations made at the seminar that India is interfering in the internal affairs of neighboring countries as a figment of imagination.

Reportage on Border Talks With PRC

BK221618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Talks between India and China on the boundary question and other aspects of their bilateral relations open in New Delhi on Monday.

An official spokesman said today that India is approaching the talks in a constructive spirit. In a statement he said that while examining further possibilities of improving relations in other areas, India will make determined efforts to advance toward the solution of the boundary question. He noted that Sino-Indian relations have been improving steadily as there has been a continuing exchange of views on matters of mutual interest. However, he pointed out that specific progress on [the] boundary question still remains to be made. The 4-day talks are the fourth round of discussions to settle the boundary question.

The Chinese delegation is expected in the capital tonight. It will be led by Mr Gong Dafei, vice foreign minister. The 17-member Indian team is headed by Mr K.S. Bajpai, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

PRC Delegation Arrives

BK230656 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] An eight-member Chinese delegation led by the vice foreign minister, Mr Gong Dafei, arrived in New Delhi yesterday for talks on the boundary question and other aspects of bilateral relations. The talks will begin tomorrow. The 4-day talks are the fourth round of discussions to settle the boundary problem. The 17-member Indian team is headed by the secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr K.S. Bajpai.

Talks Begin 24 October

BK240901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Official-level talks between India and China on the boundary question and bilateral relations began in New Delhi this morning. The 4-day talks are the fourth round of discussions between the two countries to settle the boundary issue.

The Indian delegation is led by the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr K.S. Bajpai, and the Chinese side by the vice foreign minister, Mr Gong Dafei.

Official Comments on Talks With Bangladesh

BK221630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] The Indo-Bangladesh talks on ad hoc sharing of Tista waters have ended in Dhaka. The talks have been inconclusive and the two sides will meet again in Delhi next month.

This was stated by the union irrigation secretary and the leader of the Indian delegation to the talks, Mr Padhye. He was talking to newsmen at Calcutta today on his return from Dhaka.

A joint press note on the talks said that the discussions were held in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship, and mutual understanding.

Sri Lankan Charge of Interference Rejected

BK220708 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] India has rejected Sri Lanka's insinuation that it is interfering in the internal affairs of that country. The Indian delegate, Mr S. Ramachandran, was speaking to the special political committee of the United Nations, exercising his right to reply to the Sri Lankan delegate's remarks made at the meeting. Mr Ramachandran took exception to the comments of the Sri Lankan delegate on the domestic politics of India. He said we confined ourselves only to the extent of the flow of refugees from Sri Lanka and did not criticize the policies or actions of Sri Lanka. Mr Ramachandran also denied the allegations that India is supporting terrorism in that country. He said India's bonafides are manifest and the good offices of the prime minister's special envoy are still available. He expressed the hope that the Sri Lanka Government will make use of the good offices and the problems in that country will be resolved peacefully with wisdom and justice.

Ceylon Workers Congress Leader on Tamil Issue

BK221135 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] The Ceylon Workers Congress has said it would urge President Jayewardene to restart negotiations on the problems of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. The president of the Congress, the Sri Lankan minister for rural industry, Mr Thondaman, said this in a statement in Tiruchirappalli [in India] today. He said the Congress will also request the president to invite Mr G. Parthasarathy, special envoy of the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, for further discussions. Mr Thondaman said the problem of ethnic minorities in Sri Lanka is no longer a mere question of negotiations between Sri Lankan authorities and the Tamil United Liberation Front but has become the concern of the international community. He said the discussions he had with the leaders of the national parties in India and the leaders of Tamil Nadu have been extremely useful.

AFP: Akali Dal Denies Responsibility for Sabotage

BK220657 Hong Kong AFP in English 0637 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Oct. 2 (AFP) — The Sikh political party Akali Dal today disowned responsibility for the sabotage of a railway line in the troubled northern state of Punjab which left at least 18 people dead and (?140) injured yesterday, the party chief said.

In a statement released today, Harchand Singh Longowal said he had asked the government to arrest those responsible for the crime. "We oppose all acts of terrorism and violence," he added.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said the death toll in what is described as the biggest terrorist operation in Punjab in recent months rose to 18 when one of the injured succumbed to his injuries today.

Kashmir Leader on Center-State Relations

BK230714 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has reiterated his desire to have no confrontation with the union government and to work in cooperation with it. The chief minister told newsmen in Srinagar last evening that during his coming visit to New Delhi he would apprise the center of the law and order situation in the state and the steps being taken to deal with the activities of antinational and secessionist elements. Expressing concern over the arms buildup by Pakistan, Dr Farooq Abdullah said that besides being a danger to the country, it is the biggest hurdle in the normalization of the India-Pakistan relations.

Punjab Police Arrest 10 Suspected of Violence

BK221635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] During raids conducted in some villages of Hoshiarpur District yesterday, the Punjab police arrested 10 persons suspected to be involved in some cases of violence in the state. According to an official press release, one unlicensed rifle was also recovered by the police during the raid.

AFP Reports Arrests

BK230732 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 23 Oct 83

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Oct. 23 (AFP) — A fresh police crackdown netted more than 80 suspected Sikh terrorists by early today in Punjab, where violence has resulted in more than 30 deaths in the past month, officials said. The detainees were flushed out as the government security forces dragnet, begun earlier this month when new violence spread across the state, was spread today to new districts, they said.

Indian news agencies today said large quantities of arms, ammunitions and contraband opium had been siezed and called the results of the crackdown "encouraging." The weapons' make was not known, but they included sten guns and self-loading rifles generally used by the Army. A police spokesman denied reports that only Sikhs or members of the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, were being arrested. "The arrests are being made on the basis of past criminal record without any consideration of the person's political or sectional affiliations," Ajaypal Singh Mann said.

The dragnet included police, backed by federal paramilitary troops, who descended on several villages and towns. The exact number of detainees was not immediately known.

"We are doing well, and I can say this much that many of the people who have been taken into custody were involved in the recent wave of violence in the state," a police official said.

Sikh party chief Harchand Singh Longowal condemned the police crackdown and said the government was misusing its emergency powers to terrorise people instead of restoring goodwill and peace. Considered a moderate in the Sikh party, some of whose militant members are calling for secession, Mr. Longowal said in a strongly worded statement that the police action in this state bordering Pakistan amounted to imposition of martial law.

"Mrs. Gandhi should not remain under the mistaken impression that she could silence the voice of the Sikhs by using armed forces," he said. Federal officials here refused to comment on the statement.

Meanwhile, to avoid further train accidents in Punjab, the federal Railway Ministry said it had directed all trains passing through Punjab and adjoining states to run at a low speed of 30 km (19 miles) per hour. Railway protection forces were asked to intensify patrolling the railway.

'Combing Operation' in Ludhiana

BK230855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The Punjab police and the Central Reserve Police Force undertook joint combing operation in some villages of Jagraon subdivision of Ludhiana District yesterday. An official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent today that six people suspected to have been involved in some incidents were arrested. Police also seized one gun, one pistol and some ammunition during the operation. He said four preventive arrests were made in Hoshiarpur District.

Joint Raids Net Suspects

BK231624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The Punjab police and the Central Reserve Police during joint raids in some selected villages of Jullundur District today arrested 40 people suspected to be involved in a few cases of violence, smuggling, and other offenses. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this evening that a number of weapons including five country-made pistols and some ammunition were recovered by the police during the raids. During similar raids in some villages of Ludhiana District yesterday, six persons suspected to have been involved in some cases of violence were arrested and one pistol, a gun, and some ammunition recovered.

The Northern Railway has imposed a speed restriction on all trains passing through Punjab and has canceled a number of trains on this section from tomorrow. The speed limit will be 50 km an hour and will be in force from 1800 to 0600. A spokesman of the Northern Railway told our correspondent in New Delhi today that all passenger trains will be preceded by a goods train 20 minutes earlier. He said the cancellation and speed restriction are being imposed in view of the present situation in the state. Amongst the major trains canceled are: the Shalimar Express between Jammu, Tawi, and Ambala; the Chandigarh Express between Kalka and Bhatinda; the Tatanagar Express between New Delhi and Amritsar; the Amritsar-Howrah Express between Jullundur and Amritsar, and Madras-Jammu-Tawi Janata Express between Delhi and Jammu-Tawi.

Curfew Imposed in Bihar Town Following Violence

BK230710 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] In Bihar, curfew was imposed in Khagaria town yesterday with the worsening of the situation caused by a strike call and police firing on a violent mob of agitators. The call for the strike was given in protest agains a clash between shopkeepers and the police on Friday. An official spokesman in Patna said the police had to open fire when the mob turned violent. One person was killed and 13 others injured. Sixty people have so far been arrested. The situation is reported to be under control.

Reportage on Ziaul Haq Meetings, Statements

Comments on Negotiations

BK211725 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the program announced by him on 12 August was prepared after extensive thought and discussions, and it had the flexibility to allow necessary modifications later. He made this observation while talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi this evening. He said, at present, negotiations with leaders of the defunct political parties are going on and that they are likely to continue for or about 1 month. A team he appointed will later make an indepth assessment of these negotiations and only then will he be able to say anything in this regard.

Meeting With Jamaat-i-Islam

BK220633 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] A delegation of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islam led by Mian Tufail Mohammad met with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday evening. During the meeting, which lasted 4 hours, views were exchanged on the president's 12 August announcement and matters of national importance.

The defunct Jamaat-i-Islam delegation included Professor Ghafoor Ahmed, Kazi Hussein Ahmed, Chaudhry Rahmat Elahi, Maulana Jam Mohammad Abbasi, and Maulana Abdul Hameed Mengal. The president was (?assisted) during the talks by Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan; Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq; Federal Interior Minister Mahmud A. Haroon; Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Retired Major General Rao Farmal Ali Khan; adviser on overseas Pakistani and press affairs Muazzam Ali; and Lieutenant General K.M. Arif.

Address to Advisory Council

BK220908 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq reaffirmed his determination to implement the 12 August plan so that power is transferred to the elected representatives of the people peacefully and so that the country moves forward toward Islamic democracy. Addressing the eighth session of the Federal Advisory Council today, the president emphatically stated that negotiations could be held on details of elections, but there will be no compromise on principles. The president said he will try to conclude all stages of elections peacefully without making it a problematic issue.

The president said he is holding talks with political parties with sincere intentions. This process will be concluded very soon and then after consulting his colleagues on these negotiations he will make an announcement and explanation.

President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that the Federal Advisory Council will continue to function until the next elections and it will be further strengthened during this interim period.

Referring to the situation in Sind, the president said there is neither a secessionist movement nor sentiments of deprivation there. The situation there was created by a few peeople who have political designs. This handful of people is engaged in the politics of sabotage and subversion at the suggestion of their foreign masters. The president said the people of Sind are patriots and have selfless love for their country. The president made a strong appeal to the people to take a pledge to remain committed to the ideology of Pakistan, to endeavor to take the country toward the Islamic goal, to foil attempts by those who create obstacles on this path, and to use all their physical, spiritual, and moral capabilities for the survival and progress of Pakistan.

In his speech which lasted for more than 2 hours, the president discussed the local bodies elections in detail. He said they were held in a peaceful atmospehre with enthusiastic participation by the people. He also specially mentioned the responsibility of the Federal Advisory Council for reforming society and in this connection commented on the setting up of the Qazi courts as a result of which the process of introduction of Islamic jurisprudence has begun. He also reminded the youths of their duties and expected them to devote full attention to their studies and make themselves capable of assuming the duties of future guardians of the country.

Further Report

BK221113 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that it is the endeavor of his government to set up a representative government in the country as per its program of August 12 so that the country continues to march toward its Islamic goal. Addressing the eighth session of Majlis-i-Shoora which began in Islamabad this morning, he said he was sincerely engaged in talks with different defunct political parties about the program. However, there could be no compromise on principles. He said the process of talks was expected to be completed soon. As for the election schedule, it will be decided upon in consultation with his Cabinet colleagues and the provincial governors and announced in the Majlis-i-Shoora.

The president said that as far as provincial autonomy was concerned, it had already been settled in the 1973 Constitution. He said the main endeavor of the government was to ensure a peaceful transfer of power and the continuity of the government which was necessary for the stability of the country. He said with the completion of the local bodies polls, the first phase of the program of democratization had been completed. These elections were held in a peaceful and orderly condition and in a just manner to show that the elections to the national and provincial assemblies could be expected to be held in a much better atmosphere. He said in the light of local bodies elections, production of national identity cards will be a must for general elections.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said there was no justification for any movement from any quarter after the announcement of the political program. He regretted that instead of suggesting improvements in the formula presented by him, the so-called Movement for Restoration of Democracy of which the Pakistan People's Party was the backbone, had resorted to disruption and subversion in the country which negated the spirit of democracy. He said the political problem had to be solved politically but the course adopted by the so-called MRD was to pressure the government to achieve its own nefarious designs. In this context, he made a particular mention of the situation of Sind where a handful of elements were engaged in subversive and disruptive activities. These elements were playing to the tune of their foreign masters. This was evident from the statements made in their support from outside the country. He gave a warning that there could be no talk with those involved in subversive activities; instead, they will be dealt with sternly.

As far as the people of Sind [as heard], he said they were most patriotic and imbued with deep love for Pakistan. He said it was wrong to suggest that there was any sense of deprivation among the people of Sind. On the contrary, the province had achieved progress at twice the rate in the last 6 years as compared to the past. The Sindhi youths had due representation not only in the Army but also in other services. However, to make up for certain shortcomings, the government had constituted a committee to examine the question of representation of Sindhis.

The House was now adjourned to meet again tomorrow. The Majlis-i-Shoora will have a debate on the external situation during its current session.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Departs for Official Visit to U.S.

BK220713 Dhaka BSS in English 0602 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 22. BSS — The president of the Council of Ministers, Lt Gen. H.M. Ershad, left here late last night for Geneva en route to New York for an official visit to the United States at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan.

He told newsmen before departure that the current visit would further strengthen the already existing very close and friendly relations between Bangladesh and the United States.

The visit of Gen. Ershad who was accompanied by Begum Ershad was described as the first official visit of any head of government of Bangladesh at the invitation of American President. Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha, Local Government Minister Mahbubur Rahman and a number of senior civil and military officials are members of his entourage.

Gen. Ershad who will reach Washington on October 24, after an overnight halt in New York, is scheduled to meet President Ronald Reagan the following day at the Oval Office of White House to talk on matters of bilateral interests and issues of regional and international importance. He would also hold discussions with other important American leaders and address the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The American investors would be invited to Bangladesh to make private investments in the industrial sectors, he added.

Gen. Ershad said his discussions with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce would mainly relate to the ways and means of expanding trade between the two countries. The United States is a major buyer of Bangladeshi products, he added.

Replying to a question, he said during the visit a commodity aid agreement worth 65 million dollars will be signed between the two countries. Besides, he added, there was a possibility of signing an investment agreement between two sides.

Besides meeting members of Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives, he will meet Bangladeshi nationals living in America.

Gen. Ershad is expected to return home on October 4 [as received], via Tokyo and Hong Kong.

Ershad Cited on Election

BK221458 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] The chief martial law administrator of Bangladesh, Lieutenant General Ershad, has expressed his desire to contest the presidential election. He indicated this while talking to newsmen at Dhaka airport last night before leaving on an official visit to the United States. Gen Ershad said the presidential poll will be held before the parliamentary elections if the Constitution is restored. Our Dhaka correspondent says the political parties are demanding parliamentary poll first.

Talks With India on Tista River Waters End

BK230748 Dhaka BSS in English 0700 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 23, (BSS) — The secretary-level Bangladesh-India talks ended here on Saturday without accomplishing the task of preparing a document on a proposed agreement on the sharing of the water of the Tista River. The two sides however decided to meet again in New Delhi in November on a mutually convenient date.

The meeting sources said there remained some issues to be patched up between the two sides expressing the hope of preparing a document on the agreement at the next meeting.

Meanwhile, the mandated 90 days time [was] given to the secretary level Tista River committee of the Indo-Bangladesh joint rivers commission to prepare the agreement documents.

NEPAL

Foreign Minister Returns From General Assembly

BK231600 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Excerpt] The foreign minister, Padma Bahadur Khatri, returned to Katmandu this morning after a fortnight's visit to New York to lead the Nepali delegation to the 38th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

SRI LANKA

UN Envoy Corrects Indian Delegate Over Situation

BK221219 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] At a special Political Committee meeting of the United Nations, Sri Lanka's delegate to the United Nations, (Ben Fonseca), had to correct his Indian counterpart, Mr Ramachandran, over the situation in Sri Lanka. The Indian representative had voiced concern that the situation in Sri Lanka was affecting India and that thousands of Tamil refugees were piling into India. In reply, Mr (Fonseca) said that those who have left Sri Lanka were mostly Indian citizens and not refugees and their number had not [words indistinct] of a massive outflow. He told the 158-nation committee that India had suffered [words indistinct]. The Indian delegate said that his country did not intervene in the affairs of Sri Lanka or any other country and did not support any separatist movement or condone violence.

Briefs

Canadian Food Aid — The Governments of Canada and Sri Lanka signed an agreement yesterday providing for a Canadian food-aid grant of approximately 198 million rupees to finance wheat grain imports from Canada. The grant will be utilized to purchase more than 36,000 metric tons of wheat grain from Canada during the second half of December this year. [Excerpt] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Oct 83 BK]

Beirut Explosions, U.S., French Deaths Reported

GF231924 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Muslim revolutionaries in Lebanon have blasted the building housing the general headquarters of the U.S. Marines around Beirut airport. The 3-story [as heard] building collapsed completely as a result of the blast, killing at least 120 U.S. Marines and wounding tens of others.

Another blast occurred shortly after the above-mentioned explosion in the headquarters building of the interventionist French troops in western Beirut. The building, which was completely destroyed, is in Ramlat al-Bayda. It has been reported that the number of French troops killed in this incident is at least 20.

Beirut airport was closed down for a few hours after the second explosion. U.S. Marines and French troops surrounded the site of the incident and cut off the roads leading to the headquarters building in question. Meanwhile, U.S. aircraft taking off from bases in the FRG have begun transporting the dead and wounded of the interventionist U.S. forces. According to experts, a truck loaded with 900 kilos of TNT was used in the blast which destroyed the headquarters of the U.S. Marines. The damage caused to the building housing the U.S. Marines in Beirut is greater than the damage caused to the U.S. Embassy in the city last April.

Musavi-Ardabili Comments

LD232114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Members of the Association of Clergy, the Islamic Propaganda Organization, and the headquarters for holding Friday prayers in Qa'emshahr today met Supreme Court President Musavi-Ardabili. At this meeting, one of the clergymen made a speech in connection with the problems in that town.

The president of the Supreme Court then referred to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Mostafa Khomeyni and the effects of his martyrdom and that of other martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war in the victory and the stability of the revolution and added: The ulema have a heavy responsibility in this respect. The clergymen have, since the beginning of the revolution, taken their places in the frontlines of demonstrations and through all the different phases, whether on the battlefronts or behind the fronts. They have cooperated with the revolution and will go on doing so. If we continue to move as we have done up to now, the voice of our revolution will be heard all over the world and this is the meaning of exporting our revolution.

In Lebanon, where up to yesterday the external powers intended to divide it, the Muslim people of that country have learned the lesson of revolution from Iran and have dealt with the United States and France in such a way that they have learned their lesson not to embark on aggressions and attacks on oppressed nations.

Spokesman Denies Involvement

GF240803 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Following the explosion at the headquarters of the U.S. Marines and the French troops in Beirut, the U.S. defense secretary's allegations on Iran's possible involvement and the threat of retaliation, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry denied the allegations and said: The United States and the Multinational Force has entered Lebanon, supported by the Zionist regime, with the object of usurpation and without the permission of the Lebanese nation. It has incurred heavy losses and difficulties due to the heroic resistance of the Lebanese people.

He refuted the allegations of the U.S. defense secretary of possible involvement by the Iranian Republic: The U.S. authorities are incapable of correctly assessing the degree of of resistance by the Lebanese people and are trying to divert international opinion from their consecutive defeats in Lebanon and to avoid confessing their impotence by using this country as a scapegoat.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, commenting on the threat by Weinberger, said: The United States has always directed its plots and animosity toward the Iranian Republic. This statement by the U.S. defense secretary does not change that country's attitude toward Iran.

IRNA Cites Denial

GF240930 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct 24, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry spokesman of the Islamic Republic today denied any part by Iran in the bombing of American and French Army headquarters in Beirut, that killed more than 150 American Marines and French paratroopers.

Speaking in response to charges made against the Islamic Republic by U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, the spokesman said that because of its inability to grasp the resistance of the Lebanese people against the multi-national forces, the U.S. was trying to divert world public opinion by blaming this or that country for its repeated setbacks and justifying its weaknesses in Lebanon.

The U.S. has in the past and in the present always made the Islamic Republic of Iran the target of its conspiracies and the stand by the American defense secretary will not make a difference in the U.S.'s treatment towards Iran.

He said that the American and other multi-national forces had occupied Lebanon without the consent of the Lebanese people and were there to back the Zionist invasion.

Now the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, they have suffered heavy losses and difficulties due to the resistance of the Lebanese people.

IRNA comments that political analysts believe that the U.S. is trying to exploit the Beirut bombing in order to conspire against the Islamic revolution and by blaming Iran it would prepare the grounds for a military crisis in the Persian Gulf with increased military presence in the region along with other foreign forces.

AFP Report

NC240643 Paris AFP in English 0632 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct 24 (AFP) — Iran today denied playing any part in two massive explosions in Beirut yesterday in which nearly 200 American and French Peace Keeping Forces were killed.

Reports from Washington yesterday said the United States had "circumstantial evidence" that Iranian-supported groups may have carried out the attacks.

Today's denial of Iranian participation came from a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by Radio Tehran who accused the United States of seeking to "manipulate public opinion" in order to "justify its weakness and successive defeats" in Lebanon.

The daily *Islamic Republic* said in an editorial today that the Beirut explosions were the "crystalisation of the growing anger of the Lebanese Moslems against the direct interference of Western colonial forces."

Khomeyni Praises War Victories, Decries Iraqi Bombings

LD231512 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 83

[25-minute speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni to officials from Heavy Industry Ministry and productive enterprises at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran 23 October — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I give thanks for being able to see you, brothers, who are crusading in the interests of the homeland and of Islam. I hope that God will make you all successful so that you can be even more useful to your own country. You know that the previous regime held back progress as far as our youths were concerned. Not only was that regime unwilling to help them progress but it held them back in the interests of the superpowers. Thus, this country became dependent in every respect.

Today it is up to you to devote yourselves to exerting efforts toward increasing this country's industry and output. Your efforts today for the Islamic country are tantamount to an act of worship. Every one of you today is engaged in an act of worship with the ideals of Islam in mind whether you are working in a factory, in agriculture, or elsewhere. When one is serving for the sake of God's creatures who have suffered oppression throughout history, who have been held back, who have been prevented from making spiritual and material progress, one is serving Islam. You are then crusading behind the lines just as our other crusaders are fighting at the front.

You can observe today that we are beset by the plots and conspiracies hatched by the superpowers. The reason they have mobilized all their resources to attack your country, both through propaganda and by means of arms, is because they feel that it is Iran that is able to deliver itself and other countries from the slavery and plundering of the superpowers. For this reason, we should be ready to follow up the blow that we have struck against them.

We are only halfway down the road. What you have done is unique in the world. You do not know any other country that has cut itself off from one superpower without linking itself to another. Without exception, all the countries in the world are directly or indirectly under the domination of one superpower or another.

You are alone in the world in having rejected both, in cutting off both of them and in wanting to rely on yourselves. You want to be independent. You want to be free. You want to be free forever of the shackles that the satanical regime had created for you. This can be achieved through your own efforts, in whatever walk of life you might be — be it at universities, on the farm, at the front, or in factories. All of you are crusading for the sake of God. This crusade should be continued to its final conclusion. God willing, this will be done [shouts of "God willing"] You will it and the most exalted Almighty God will help you.

You know about the conspicuous victories achieved by our dear combative youths at the front. So great are these victories that the big powers are now trying to find a way to save Saddam from a defeat which I hope will be his final one. On the other hand, you know that Saddam has developed an insane psychological condition so that whenever he is defeated at the front he stands back and subjects our youngsters, our country, our children to his long-range missiles. You have seen what he did to Dezful some time ago and what he has done now to Masjed Soleyman, to Marivan, and to Baneh. He cannot withstand us on the warfront so he viciously commits aggression against ordinary, defenseless people.

The strange thing is that a couple of days before his crime an Iraqi official — perhaps Saddam himself — was reported to have told the United Nations or a similar organization that Iraq reserved its right to hit any part of Iran. The United Nations, which is there to protect human rights, as it were, remained silent and in that way encouraged him to commit such a crime. He cannot hurt our military forces but from a distance he can hurl long-range missiles at us that the United States and the Soviet Union have given him and can bring down the homes of defenseless people and children. He can boast about what he has done and how many he has killed. There is no boast in killing women and children in their sleep with missiles fired from a long distance outside Iran. Meanwhile, he is shouting that not an inch of Iraqi territory has been lost to Iran. The truth is, however, that the Iranians have already entered Iraq up to 700 km [as heard]. It is hoped that, God willing, it will be [word indistinct]. [Shouts of "God willing"]

I have to thank the dear youths who have laid their lives on the line and who are active on these fronts for the sake of Islam. I have to thank the Armed Forces of whatever service and the reconstruction crusade members who are also very active. In all fairness, we are truly indebted to them for the way in which they

are working at the front in the circumstances, for the way in which they are achieving victories and creating honor for you.

While many Iraqi cities are now within our sights and range, our combatants have never shelled them and should never do so because the inhabitants of these cities have done nothing wrong. We should stop Saddam in battle. We should hurt Saddam in battle. We should destroy Saddam in battle, God willing. [Shouts of "God willing"] I hope that the war is witnessing its final days [shouts of "God willing"], that that regime will be overthrown, and that Iraq will be run by the Iraqi nation itself in a worthy Islamic manner. [Shouts of "God willing"]

One of the things reported to me today is that Saddam has awarded a medal to one of his commanders who is purported to have achieved a victory in battle recently. [laughter] This is one of his ailments. Even when Khorramshahr was recaptured and the Iraqis were thrown out, Saddam awarded bravery medals to a number of people. [laughter]

Now that they have again been thrown out disgracefully — nearly 700 of them have been taken prisoner and moved behind the lines and nearly 3,500 of them have been killed or wounded, including may of their commanders — yet again he has awarded medals. [laughter] It would be much better to give him a bravery medal as well because this man with all his savagery also has a psychological condition under which, while he resorts to this or that to help him get out of his predicament, he is boastful and is executing the wretched ones he has sent to the front for failing their job. Only a few days ago, as is reported, a field court martial was set up and a number of the commanders who were negligent were executed. This is the psychological condition he is experiencing now, under which he is prepared to resort to anything and commit any kind of crime. I hope that the Iraqi Army itself will no longer put up with all these crimes and that it will put the Ba'th Party in its place so that Iraq will be able to continue its Islamic life proudly, God willing.

I pray to the most exalted Almighty God for health and success for all the youths, be they at the front or behind the lines, as well as for you, dear young ones, who are crusading inside the country. I hope all of you will be healthy and happy, that all of you will do your work with strength and determination, that all of you will serve your country in a worthy way. We, on our part, will be praying for you, God willing. Peace and God's benedictions be upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sermon Explains Val-Fajr IV

LD211515 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Along with the praiseworthy victories of the valiant combatants of Islam in the Val-Fajr IV operations, millions of our Muslim compatriots today threw their support behind the continuation of the battle with world arrogance until final victory by attending the Friday prayers held throughout the country. The ever-vigilant and revolutionary inhabitants of Tehran, simultaneously and in coordination with our other committed compatriots, were present in huge numbers at the usual sacred Friday prayers venue — Tehran University — and conducted their prayers led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, provisional Friday imam of Tehran.

Referring to the Val-Fajr IV operations, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council explained at the beginning of his second sermon the various political and military aspects of imposed war: Until recently, the issue on many fronts was to repel the enemy from our territory, but now this calculation has changed and we have entered Iraqi territory. Yet here too we are concerned with lives and we wish those pure individuals in the Iraqi Armed Froces who may prove useful in the future to remain alive. From a political point of view too, the issues of time and place are very important to us in those operations. The imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council added:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] This operation embodies a number of other aspects, military and humanitarian. The important issues in this operation, to which we have attached great attention, were, first, location and, second, timing. I will elaborate on these two points in order to inform you that our dear ones took all aspects into account, not only the military aspects, before entering a vast political, military aspect, before entering a vast political, military, and human battlefield. Before anything else, I must say that Val-Fajr IV is a very vast operation. If you look at the map, if you have an embossed map much the better, this operation is continuing from Sar Dasht, on the top of the map to the south of and parallel to Marivan. It is approximately 160 km long and the Seyyed ash-Shohada base is in command of the operation.

This operation is delicate from the points of view of timing and location. From the point of view of location and the question of how far we are to advance, I will not specify. This is the length of the front. What will be the depth of the operation? For this you must wait a couple of weeks. You will learn from events how far we wish to go and where we will stop, or how far we can go. Of course our ability too is limited. Leave the depth of the front for the future; what is now important is the length of the front, from the location point of view, which I will refer to later.

From the point of view of timing, the reason we started it now has a secret aspect, and that is the importance of 'Ashura. But what is in the back of our minds and what we have been dictated by is the world arrogance and region's reactionary propaganda offensive against us. We could not remain silent with regard to this action. It is approximately 1 month since they started this vast propaganda.

First, they have cheekily violated international conventions which they had signed. Officials of a country such as France have openly declared that they could not allow France to be defeated in this war and let Iran win. What is this to do with you? Are you the other side of the war, are you the owner of this or that country, are you a bunker for this nation or that nation? You do not have to allow anything. We have issued ourselves the permit, but you have given the other side a weapon that is ranked among strategic weapons — missiles and Super Etendard planes — although, as I have said before, they are not effective. Yet in the course of a war, does the United Nations allow those who are neutral and do not want to become a partner in the war to give such weapons to one side of the war? [Passage indistinct]

They also alleged in their propaganda that Iran no longer posseses military strength and that there can be no military triumph in this war. They come up with the issue of human rights, the issue of the environment, the issue of international strategic areas. They discussed the possibility of a third world war. The propaganda they embarked on during this period was aimed at intimidating and weakening our nation's morale and at boosting the morale of Iraq's Saddamists and the region's reactionaries, to give confidence to their lackeys in the Persian Gulf region and their mercenaries in the region's reactionary countries. They created a situation that encouraged them to launch this campaign against us and simultaneously, as you are aware, they launched that maneuver by the six Persian Gulf states, which in any case is not an important issue to be mentioned.

Under these circumstances, in which we were the target of all those offensives, we had to embark on some kind of action. Failure to do so would have resulted in their launching something else in a matter of days in order to prove that Iran is afraid and that, as Iraq had stated, Iran had been planning to launch an offensive for a month but had changed its mind. Well, they thought that, in spite of what we had been saying, we had been frightened by their propaganda. Therefore, we attacked the very night that they had canceled their military alert. Poor people — for weeks since they declared a first-grade alert—they had sleepless nights, all leave was canceled. But the night we decided to launch our offensive they forgot about it, they went to sleep, they gave leave. The POW's are saying that after many sleepless nights they were about to have a good night's sleep, but you came and ruined it. Suddenly they woke to hear the sound of "God is great" from their windows.

This part of the remarks is addressed, in addition to our peoples, to the representatives of world news agencies. I would like them to convey these remarks to their masters. We are addressing them. With the Val-Fajr IV operation, in fact, we are talking to America, France, and the region's reactionaries. We especially launched this operation at this particular moment in order to make you comprehend that the era in which superpowers determined fates of wars or when they wished there should be war is over.

We have the only revolution and we are the only country in the world and this century to make decisions contrary to the wishes of all superpowers, powers of East and West, and the region's reactionaries and stand and counter them and look them in the eye and act against their wishes and their wills. [Crowd chants "God is great" and "Death to America"] It is not because we are illogical people. No, our logic is to tell you that you do not have the right of deciding for us. It is not up to you whether Iran wins. If Iran does not want to win, it is its own decision. If it wins, it is its own decision. You should stop saying that the war is no longer in the interest of anyone. There was no interest in war right from the start. You should not have started it; now that you have started it, its fate will be decided by us and only us who have been the subject of aggression. You have committed a crime and first have thrown Saddam and the Ba'th Party and the region into a trap, now you think you can untrap them with your means. You will get the opposite results. Those very French planes, instead of saving Saddam, have resulted in the operation and this operation is an answer to the Super Entendard planes. If by tomorrow you come up with a new idea, we will pound our fist even more. Our people have not launched a revolution in order to see what the wishes of Washington or America, Paris or France, or the Soviet Union are. It is not up to you. Of course, we would like to have good relations with you. We wish to have understandings with you, we wish to have a quiet life, we wish our revolution to continue on its constructive life, but it is you that have started this fire and this fire must burn those who have started it to some extent so that they will not start such fires again. [end recording]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the continuation of the second sermon, referred to the great victories achieved in the Val-Fajr IV operations: We are also facing the issue of counterrevolution. We are aware that the CIA and the Mosad have told our enemies and the counterrevolutionary agents that they cannot achieve victory alone and they have asked them to unite against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, it was necessary for us to deal a fatal blow to the agents of the enemy and world arrogance in the area extending from Sar Dasht to Marivan since Iraq has invested a lot in this region and the monarchists, the communists, and the hypocrites recently had engaged in conspiracy in this region. It is sad to see that the former Muslim boys, today's hypocrites and the infidels of the future, have become tools in the hands of the CIA. Saddam has realized that the people of Kordestan are united with their other compatriots. Saddam has decided to take revenge on the Kurdish people. Therefore, he bombed the towns of Baneh and Marivan. The Val-Fajr IV operations were our reply to America, France, Saddam, and world arrogance.

The ad interim Friday imam of Tehran then referred to the unprecedented devotion shown by the nation in supporting the combatants of Islam: Our nation is like this and this nation cannot be pushed from the scene. Therefore, our message, along with our action, to our enemies is: You are putting yourselves in more trouble and you are making our nation firmer. We hope to give a good response to our nation from a living point of view.

Comments on Gulf, Hormuz

GF211634 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1430 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Friday Arabic sermon by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran Friday imam ad interim and Majlis speaker, during Friday prayers at Tehran University on 21 October — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace be upon you, o Muslims. You know that in the past weeks the international oppressors raised a big uproar in the media with regard to the imposed war. It is an uproar to [words indistinct] with the aim of striking at Iran's vital resources, and [word indistinct] the military structure and raising the 'Aflaqis' morale and fanning their spirit of aggression.

You are aware o Muslims that we have reiterated what we have been saying since the beginning of the war. We have said that for Iran the security of the Persian Gulf is of vital importance as long as our vital resources are safeguarded. If one day we should be unable to exploit these sources, this vital need will become a

different need, namely, to deprive the enemies as well of the Persian Gulf, the enemies who use the Gulf's potential to defend the 'Aflaqis. We have said that others can benefit from the Gulf's potential under the umbrella of our strength and ability to maintain the Gulf's security.

If one day we want this region to be unsafe, there will be no other power in our present world that is capable of safeguarding the Gulf's security.

Throughout the past 3 years, the security of the Persian Gulf was — and continues to be — the responsibility of our valiant and courageous Navy. When the media trumpets of the imperialists confronted our declared statements in this regard they used them to create another uproar. It was said that Iran is being adventurous and is encouraging the world's great powers to intervene in the area. Some little devils in the area then carried out childish moves which they called "exercises" so that such exercises will be a green light for the entry of the enemies of the peoples to the area.

We know that the aim of the enemies of Islam and Muslims and the forces of aggression in the world is to preserve, by such intrigue, the Iraqi Ba'thists who at these fateful moments are on the brink of falling into the abyss and to prevent a conclusion of the war and the establishment of security and calm in the region. The international oppressors are plotting so that the war will continue in its present state, so that the countries of our Muslim region will continue to quarrel and feud, so that during such disputes Zionism will remain secure and safe from attacks, so that the enemies will have a free hand in committing aggression against Lebanon and implement the plot of expanding the territory of the usurper Israel, [words indistinct], so that surrogates can remain in power, [words indistinct], and, more important, so that the Muslim peoples will remain weak.

However, relying on divine victory, the sacrifices of Muslims,and the imam's wise leadership, we will foil all these plots and we will open the road for the rallying of Muslim ranks in the region, the destruction of Israel, the saving of Lebanon,and the spreading of Islam. We will punish the infidel Saddamists. We will end the war in favor of Islam and Muslims. We will end the war in favor of Islam and Muslims [sentence is repeated] and we will eradicate [word indistinct] and division from the region. [Words indistinct]

The decisive blow we dealt to the enemy yesterday and today in the Val-Fajr IV operations have demonstrated that threats do not make us flee from the field and that we have the power to do what we say and have demonstrated that these plots will be (?useless) to the enemy.

We declare once again that the security of the Persian Gulf is more important to us than to any other party, and we will strive to maintain the Gulf's [word indistinct] as much as we can. If one day we should despair as a result of the enemy's madness and recklessness and are compelled to make the Gulf unsafe, then no one will be able to prevent us. No one will be able to prevent us from carrying out such an action which we view as bitter and undesirable.

He who holds the key to the Strait of Hormuz, o Muslims, he who holds the key to the Strait of Hormuz is in fact strangling the enemy and he will press on the enemy's throat when it is in his interest to do so. We have proved that we are masters of our decision. The great powers will never influence our decision or determination.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "When the help of God comes, and victory, and you see people entering God's religion in throngs, then proclaim the praise of your Lord and seek His forgiveness, for He is forgiving." [Koranic verse] Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Commentary Says Val-Fajr IV Defies Western Policy

GF230942 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Val-Fajr IV operation is an expression of the continuation of our country's policy of neither East nor West. During the Val-Fajr IV operations, the Islamic combatants have succeeded in capturing several strategic positions and destroying several units of the enemy in their battle against the Saddam forces on the northern fronts. They are continuing their victorious progress after consolidating their position in the captured areas. The victorious Val-Fajr IV offensive, which is part of the chain of offensives from Karbala to Karbala to Karbala, is being conducted in view of new developments in the Middle East.

The present war was imposed on our country. U.S. imperialism had thought that by starting this war it could gain its long-term objectives. However, the times and the perseverance of the Islamic forces and their achievements have changed all the circumstances and has forced Western imperialism to mark new targets for itself in addition to prosecuting the war. As they are giving up hope about disintegration of the Islamic Republic through the imposed war, they are, as in the past, trying to create domestic crises within Iran by arming the counterrevolution forces against Iran. In order to launch a two-pronged attack on Iran — by creating domestic crises like the hypocrite movement, economic crises, and various movements within and by making a mad rush to arm Saddam from outside — they are creating new problems for Iran with a view to achieving a breakdown of political-military order in our country and making Iran succumb to their intrigues.

In fact, the criminal planning of Western imperialism, and also of the East, comes down to the one basic fact —the arrogance seen in their international dealings. So far the world nations have been led to believe that the superpowers make or break things. For example, when there was war in one of the Southeast Asian countries, one could see that two superpowers were involved indirectly by supporting this or that side with arms and materiel. In some cases, there was also direct intervention by this or that superpower. Examples of these trends are Vietnam in the past and Lebanon in the present day world. In both cases, the United States has been one of the prime factors of war. Since the idea of

two hemispheres in world politics is firmly established in the minds of the major groups enimical to the Lebanese Government, one can say that many people believe that the Lebanese problem or the intrigues in the Middle East can be only solved through the direct presence of the United States and the Soviet Union at the conference table.

However, the question is: Could this thinking apply to the Gulf war as well? It is true that, barring Iran, all others think so. All political, religious, and propaganda organs of our neighboring countries as well as states existing thousands of miles away from Iran also believe that if the United States directly intervenes the war could be ended. Several reactionary states among the Arabs through various means have complained to the United States about its lack of initiative and action to end the Iran-Iraq war. It should also be noted here that this kind of attitude serves U.S. interests because if it is accepted as true that the United States has been inactive in this regard, it would also mean that the United States has taken no important action on the Gulf war and it might do so in the future if the conditions are further aggravated or if it agrees to take action through persuasion of its friends.

However, an accepted truth is that the United States is the originator of this war. The Islamic Revolution succeeded in Iran and hit the interests of the world exploiters and because of the extraordinary conditions obtained in this region in the initial days of the revolution, the world exploiters, and especially the United States, saw fit to attack this new phenomenon. It hatched the plot of the political minigroups and began the dispute in Kordestan, Gonbad, and other such places together with several coup attempts, like the one at (?Lozheh) and the military operation in Tabas. However, none of these helped the imperialists achieve their objectives. Later, U.S. imperialism began to look for a foolish man hungry for publicity and a role as a gendarmerie to land a final blow on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is how the imposed war began. Today it has reached the stage where all the states and the forces who were waiting for our capitulation have been disappointed and are now seeking ways to stop Iran where it stands now.

However, from our point of view — and from the point of view of every soldier and fighter who is engaged in battle at the fronts and in the Val-Fajr IV operations and who is hitting the infidels with "God is great" — there is no doubt that the United States, which initiated this war, would not remain inactive for long.

Recently U.S. officials like Reagan, Schultz, (?Richard Musgrave have been making funny statements regarding the war. These include Schultz' statement that it is possible that the United States may give up its neutrality and join directly in favor of Iraq.

First of all, according to the imam, the United States cannot start taking sides now, as it has been all along a partner and the world knowns it. In this connection, as our Foreign Ministry has also said, the U.S. intervention in this war would not add to its support for Iraq, but would only make such support more patent and expose the relations between imperialism and Iraq. The Val-Fajr IV operations started in circumstances when certain countries are of the opinion that now would be the time for the United States to step in and end the Gulf war. Can the United States really end the war if it wanted to? Is this obsolete thinking that it could stop any war any time or begin a new war any time still good? Does this thinking apply to wars between the Muslims and infidels as well?

The answer to this question is very clear. The analysis of Western thinking and viewpoints shows that they have not yet understood the spirit of our nation. They have not yet understood the meaning of public presence in the arena. They do not understand the relations between the people and the imam. Our people and our imam, even before the success of the Islamic Revolution, knew the organization of the Islamic Republic. The slogan of neither East nor West is not an empty slogan. It is a way of thinking and a truth and is entwined in all our national organizations including that at the war fronts.

Our people believe wholeheartedly in neither East nor West and they declare that they want a state that in all its problems, big and small, economic, social, political, or military, will act independently and will not be influenced by the superpowers. The superpowers can create problems for our nation, but the continuation of war and its shape will always depend on our own decisions. If U.S. imperialism or its henchmen or the world exploiter in the East with its servants think that they can stop the imam of the Islamic nation from independent action, then they do not understand the slogan of neither East nor West.

From the Val-Fajr IV operations today, and in actions before that, like the breaking of the seige around Abadan, it would become clear to the world that the military initiative has always remained with the Islamic forces of Iran. They have always been independent of imperialist plots and pressures, have taken independent action whenever circumstances have permitted, and have done what they have wanted to do.

Before the Val-Fajr IV operations, the imperialists had begun a propaganda campaign saying that Iraq would soon be able to change the course of war and that France, working for the Western imperialist interests, had been appointed to support Iraq. In this connection, the issue of Super Etendard aircraft was played up and political pressure was brought to bear upon Iran so that if Iran failed to accept their terms, Iraq would hit at Khark Island and destroy the Iranian economy. However, our people stand on the word of the imam when he said that if that happens, they will not see one drop of oil.

However, the imperialists have not been sitting idle since this expression of determination by Iran. The United States announced that an aircraft carrier and ships have been sent toward the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf and it warned that if the Strait of Hormuz is closed the United States would not remain inactive. Their whole effort was focused on the Super Etendard aircraft and the Exocet missile that were calculated to take away military initiative from the Islamic Republic. What they wanted to say was: If you do not do such and such, we will hit you with the Super Etendard aircraft.

As far we are concerned, the Super Etendard aircraft are not important because the arms which the Soviet Union has been supplying to Iraq are far more formidable than the five Super

Etendard aircraft. For us, it is important that the export and import through the Persian Gulf should continue and the defense of that is important to us.

The Val-Fajr IV operations — as Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said during the Friday sermons last week — is the answer to these international threats and pressures. What is important to us is the stand of Islam in the face of the daily machinations of the infidel, so that our country, by following the slogan of neither East nor West makes its own independent decisions whenever it feels like it uninfluenced by international pressure or chanting.

The Val-Fajr IV operations that are advancing victoriously are a symbol of our defiance against the terms of the infidels and show that a correct course action has been chosen by the Islamic forces against all the Eastern and Western machinations. The imam, the people, and Islam want the Armed Forces to advance, and until the slogan of neither East nor West lives, no international threat or intimidation can stop these advances. The decision lies with us.

Joint Headquarters Issues Communiques on Val-Fajr IV

Communique No 6

LD211159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Communique No 6 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Boundless greetings to the brave combatants of Islam, who are continuing their enthusiastic battle against the enemies of the Koran and the beloved Islam on an extensive front, more than 150 km long, from Sar Dasht to the south of Marivan.

Heroic Islamic nation, martyr-nurturing Iranian nation: In continuation of the victorious Val-Fajr IV operations, which have resulted in heavy blows on the defeated enemy forces in an area 15 km inside Iraqi territory, in the northwest of Marivan, and in the liberation of heights and regions — reports on these operations have been announced in previous communiques — the powerful combatants of Islam last night raided the heart of enemy positions from the western axis of Marivan. In a heavy battle penetrating more than 6 km inside Iraqi territory, they liberated several important heights, including heights No 1,470, 1,320, 1,820 (Kharuzeh), and 1,509, and Shohada hill. They were deployed in an area 1 km from the Iraqi town of Panjwin.

The powerful combatants of Islam also liberated the Iraqi garrison of Garmuk, which was an important assembly and organization center of the Zionist enemy and a supply center for the counterrevolutionaries and armed assailants. Smashing the forces based in it, they hoisted the flag of Islam over it. Furthermore, they liberated the Iraqi (Barakhuteh) post and destroyed over 50 Zionist enemy bases in the operation zone.

In the course of these operations, in addition to the destruction of brigades and battalions which has already been brought to the attention of the martyr-nurturing nation and the Muslim Iranian nation, the forces of Islam have managed to completely destroy the 55th Independent Iraqi Battalion, the 3d Battalion of the 39th Iraqi Brigade, the 7th Commando Battalion, and the Al-Faruq commando force, and to kill more than 1,500 Ba'thist-Zionist Saddamist criminals. Therefore, the overall toll of casualties suffered by the enemy since the beginning of the Val-Fajr IV operations has exceeded 3,500 men. Furthermore, a considerable number of enemy forces have been taken prisoner by the forces of Islam and so far 450 of them have been transferred behind the front.

Since the beginning of the Val-Fajr IV operations, a great number of the enemy's tools and equipment, including 120 vehicles and 40 tanks and personnel carriers, have been set on fire and destroyed in the operation zone.

On the Sar Dasht axis, situated to the north of the Val-Fajr IV operational sector, the combatants of Islam dealt heavy blows to the defeated Ba'thist forces and succeeded in liberating the (Homal) pass. They are now deployed in that region.

Relying on the endless divine power and on the blessed prayers of the imam and the Islamic nation, the God is great - chanting combatants of Islam will continue the Val-Fajr IV operations until the attainment of the specified goals. These operations were started with the aim of cutting the counterrevolution's contact with the Zionist enemy, destroying the enemy forces in the operational sector, removing the border towns of the Islamic homeland, particularly Marivan, from the range of enemy fire, capturing the important and strategic heights to the northwest of Marivan inside Iraqi territory, giving a decisive response to the crimes committed by the Zionist regime of Baghdad, which savagely brings the Muslim Kurdish people under brutal air and artillery attacks, and also giving a warning to the supporters of the Zionist Baghdad regime. By showing them the boundless power of the beloved Islam, they will disgrace and destroy the enemies of the school of the Koran.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 7

LD211743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Communique No 7 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Those who adhere to the principle of 'Ashura are sincerely fulfilling the legend of Karbala and are taking steps toward full accomplishment of the objectives of the holy Islamic Revolution. On this path they continue to fight against world blasphemy and its criminal followers who cannot tolerate the shining light of this divine revolution.

The Muslim nation, the martyr-nurturing nation, your brave and selfless sons, in the continuation of Val-Fajr IV, taking place in

the west of Marivan, in an extended and speedy attack on the criminal enemy liberated the 1,509, 1,470, 1,420, 1,400, and 1,330 Heights, Hargineh village and garrison, and the border post of (Banabet) after a heavy battle last night. The 1st and 3d Battalions of the 29th Brigade, the 3d Battalion of the 504th Brigade, the 4th Battalion of the 91st Brigade, the 7th Commando Battalion, the 2d (Qotaybeh) Commando Company, the 2d and 4th Companies and the (Mo'tasem) Company from the 5th Battalion of the Special Force, the 1st Company of the 2d Battalion of the 504th Brigade, and the (Al-Faruq) Commando force were annihilated and the personnel of these units were either killed, wounded, captured or fled.

Meanwhile in the southwestern region of Baneh, the forces of Islam attacked the positions of the Zionist enemy from the heights where they were deployed. While annihilating two battalions of the 105th Brigade of the Iraqi forces, they set fire to a large amount of their equipment and machinery and captured a large amount of undamaged ammunition and arms. More than 3,500 of the Zionist enemy have been killed or wounded since the beginning of the Val-Fajr IV operations. A substantial number of high-ranking officers of the Zionist regime of Baghdad are among the dead. Also, hundreds of the enemy forces have been captured by the forces of Islam. So far, 465 of them have been transferred to locations behind the front line. The powerful forces of Islam have destroyed more than 180 enemy vehicles and more than 45 tanks and personnel carriers after setting fire to them.

The combatants of Islam are at present stationed on heights overlooking Panjwin in Iraq and control some enemy installations in that region.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters

Communique No 8

LD221135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Communique No 8 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Last night, in continuation of the victorious Val-Farj IV operations, the warriors of Islam — comprising the brave combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the self-sactificing guards and mobilization units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps — destroyed the 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions of the Iraqi 428th Brigade and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the Ibn-e Harith Tank Battalion in an offensive on Zionist enemy positions. The Garmuk commando units also suffered heavy losses and a large number of their troops were either killed or wounded.

During last night's operation, over 800 enemy forces were either killed or wounded. There are dozens of Iraqi officers among the dead. The number of enemy troops taken prisoner and transferred behind the battlelines since the start of the Val-Fajr IV operations has reached 658. The task of counting and transferring the rest of the POW's continues.

While consolidating their newly-captured positions in the heights east of the Iraqi town of Panjwin — within 1 km of this city — the Islamic combatants opened intense fire on enemy armored equipment and troops, destroying a number of their vehicles. In the Hargineh region of Iraq, the Islamic combatants continued their mopping up operations, consolidated their own positions, took positions in the military town of Hargineh, and opened fire on the Zionist enemy positions, inflicting some losses on them.

In the Sar Dasht region, the forces of Islam — comprising the brave warriors of the army, the self-sacrificing guards and mobilization forces of the Guards Corps, the heroic combatants of the Gendarmerie and the Muslim Kurdish peshmerga — last night succeeded in liberating one of the highest ranges of the region, the (Sir) heights. These heights had been under the control of the accomplices of global blasphemy since the victory of the Islamic Revolution. The counterrevolutionaries who, with the support of the forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime, were trying hard to maintain control of these strategic heights, were crushed. In the course of these operations, a number of agents of the global arrogance were either killed, wounded, or forced to flee.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, the joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 9

LD221724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Communique No 9 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The ceaseless battle of the soldiers of the lord of the era and the guardians of the sanctity of the Koran continues with the complete supremacy of the forces of Islam. The weak enemy, tired of confrontation with the brave combatants of the corps of Islam, is officially admitting its disgraceful defeat by launching missiles to hit residential districts and by savagely killing the hezbollahi nation, these sincere followers of monotheism.

The Muslim nation and the martyr-nurturing nation, the heroic sons of the hezbollahi nation, continuing the victorious Val-Fajr IV operations along a front more than 150 km long, have forced the enemy to accept a heavy defeat. So far, in the northwest of Marivan, southwest of Baneh and the Sheylar (?projection), more than 700 square km of Iraqi territory has been liberated and in the Sar Dasht operational region more than 100 square km of the border zone have been cleaned from the presence of followers of world oppression by the blasphemy fighters of the army of Islam.

The number of enemy POW's transferred to locations behind the front line since the beginning of the Val-Fajr IV has passed the 700 mark and the remaining POW's are being transferred.

In the operational region southwest of Baneh, the forces of Islam last night attacked enemy positions around the (Kiolari) heights, destroyed five of their bases and set fire to several ammunition depots belonging to the forces of the Zionist regime of Baghdad.

In the region northwest of Marivan, the forces of Islam continued to consolidate their positions on the heights overlooking the town of Panjwin, 1 km away from the town, as a result of the fire by our forces on enemy positions considerable damage and casualties were inflicted on the enemy. In the Sar Dasht region, the powerful combatants of Islam succeeded in liberating the important strategic heights of 2,273 [word indistinct] which was liberated last night, and the 2,320 heights of (Zardcheh) and raised the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the summit while chanting "God is great."

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters

Communique No 10

LD231312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Communique No 10 by Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The daring men of the army of monotheism, relying on the divine assistance and led by the command of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, continued their victorious operations within the Val-Fajr IV and succeeded last night in liberating the important and strategic heights of (Sarbaranehy) inside Iraqi territory. They hoisted the glorious Islamic flag over it after attacking the positions of the mercenary Ba'thists and dealing heavy blows to the declining enemy forces along the northwest Marivan axis.

The selfless forces of the Islamic army also succeeded in killing and wounding a considerable number of enemy troops, took dozens of prisoners, and smashed a large quantity of Ba'thist weapons and equipment. As a result, they liberated the entire region of Iraqi (Haft Tavanan), took up positions there, and fortified their own positions, therefore enabling themselves to monitor the enemy's movements on the opposite side. Last night, the enemy tried desperate counteroffensives but on each occasion the enemy faced with the every-ready resistance of the Islamic troops, suffered heavy casualties, and was forced to retreat. One of these offensives which took place in the Lari area, located in the southern axis of Val-Fajr IV theater, resulted in two armored battalions and one infantry battalion of the Ba'thist 66th Special Brigade being totally crushed. Consequently, a great number of enemy sodiers were taken prisoners, with the rest being killed. Moreover, all their weapons were set ablaze and were destroyed.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters

Communique No 11

LD231839 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Communique No 11 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brave nationof Islam, martyr-nurturing nation of Iran: Following repeated victories by the God-seeking combatants of Islam during the proud Val-Fajr IV operation and the cleansing of vast parts of sensitive and strategic heights in the Sar Dasht border strip of the filthy presence of the Ba'thist, Zionist criminals of Iraq and the counterrevolutionaries affiliated to world arrogance, last night the heroic forces of the liberating army of Islam attacked enemy positions in the [Bizhveh) and (Genab) region in the axis west of Sar Dasht, across the border and 10 km inside Iraq. The combatants of Islam killed hundreds of Ba'thists and counterrevolutionaries affiliated to the East and the West, liberated the strategic regions of (Bizhveh) and (Genab), the sensitive 1,615 (Bardesur) heights overlooking (Bishveh) and the (Kuhruyeh) heights overlooking the (?Kelaf) River inside Iraq, and captured a prison jointly run by the defeated Ba'thist forces and the armed rebels in the region, freeing 200 combatants of Islam who had been captured by the enemy. These prisoners, most of whom had spent more than 2 years being tortured by Ba'thist mercenaries and counterrevolutionaries affiliated to world arrogance, were transferred to Sar Dasht where they were welcomed. In addition to liberating the abovementioned regions, during this operation, the villages of (Bishveh), (?Zino), Sheykhi, (Genab), (?Sahyuzeh), Rashakan, (Doleh) and (?Sinaran) as well as the important border posts of Baneh were also liberated and came under the full control of the combatants of Islam.

Last night, the forces of monotheism also attacked enemy positions, dealing more blows to the defeated enemy forces in the axis northwest of Marivan and liberating the important strategic heights of (?Sarbalaleh) inside Iraq over which they raised the proud flag of Islam. The (?Hafttavana) region in Iraq, in the same area, was also captured completely and all enemy movements beyond the line of contact came under the control of the combatants of Islam.

Yesterday and last night, the defeated enemy feebly attempted to stage a number of counteroffensives. Each time, however, they were confronted by the alert defense of the forces of Islam and were forced to flee after having suffered losses and casualties. Particularly in the (?Lari) sector, on the southern axis of the Val-Fajr IV operation, two armored companies and an infantry company from the 66th Brigade of the Special Forces of the criminal Ba'thists, who intended to stage a counteroffensive against the positions of the God-seeking combatants of Islam, were completely destroyed and hundreds of them were captured or killed, thanks to the watchfulness and efforts by the mighty forces of Islam.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, center of joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Report on Communique No 1,501

LD211826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Communique No 1,501 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, recounting the victories

of the combatants of Islam in the Val-Fajr IV operations, announced that on the other western and southern fronts of the country the sporadic exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between our forces and the aggressive mercenaries of Iraq. As a result of the fire by our combatants, the enemy sustained some damage and casualties. On these fronts, the combatants of Islam consolidated their defensive positions, dispatched patrol groups, established observations posts, and kept a check on the activities and movements of the Saddamist forces.

In the exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the Gendarmerie warriors repelled and silenced the fire of Saddamist forces and returned fire on the positions of Iraqi forces on the other side of the Arvand Rud. Our forces destroyed four equipment positions and killed or wounded a number of enemy personnel.

The city of Abadan received some damage as a result of shots fired by enemy long-range weapons yesterday.

IRNA Account

LD212211 Tehran IRNA in English 1953 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA — A military communique published here today said that the Iraqi battalion number seven and 55 and also one battalion of brigade number 29 had been totally wrecked by the Iranian forces during the Val Fajr-4 operations.

The communique published by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces and number 1501 said that brigade number 605 of Iraq had also been ruined during the operations. It said the Muslim combatants of Iran had also occupied the strategic heights of Haft Tanan, Khanome-Sheykhan, Hirgan, East Panjwin, and several other heights.

The Muslim combatants of Iran also liberated the military headquarters of Garmuk and also downed three enemy choppers and set ablaze one enemy provisions depot, taking captive a large number of the Iraqi troops, since the start of Val Fajr-4.

On Wednesday the Muslim combatants of Iran also set ablaze parts of the military headquarters of Seyyed Kan. The Iranian troops also wrecked one personnel carrier, destroyed one enemy howitzer, and two ammunition depots as well as several vehicles near the Iranian city of Piranshah.

On Thursday and Friday sporadic artillery fire continued between the Muslim combatants of Iran and the enemy troops in most western and southern battlefronts, and the Iranian combatants inflicted damages upon the enemy troops.

In Abadan and Khorramshah the Iranian troops zeroed in on enemy positions across the river Arvand destroying four enemy bunkers and killing a number of Iraqi soldiers.

Three housing units in Abadan were partly damaged Friday as the city was shelled by the Iraqi long-range artillery.

Communique No 1,504

LD221816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,504 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, the courageous combatants of Islam, maintaining their initiative and their superior battle capability continue to fight against the Saddamist forces. In the Val-Fajr IV operational region, our forces are stationed in the liberated regions and continue to consolidate and establish their positions and open defensive fire on the enemy. Our forces carry out missions to annihilate enemy forces and fulfill the preset objectives. In the offensive operations yesterday, the upper and lower Hargineh heights, the Shohada hill, the (Tokhm-e Morghi) and (Seh Derakhti) heights were liberated by the powerful forces of Islam.

One enemy plane which intended to bomb our units at 1400 on 20 October was hit by the fire of our antiaircraft defense units and crashed in the area to the west of the operational region.

In the operational regions of Piranshahr and Hajj 'Umran, as a result of artillery fire by our combative forces on enemy positions and supply routes, enemy troop movements were halted, one of the helicopters of the Saddamists was damaged, and several observation posts and infantry positions were set on fire.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, the exchange of fire continued yesterday and in the Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin regions, the intensity of fire was more than other fronts. As a result of the fire by the powerful defendents of Islam on these fronts, two trucks carrying Saddamist forces and several foxholes and trenches were destroyed.

During the past 24 hours, the exchange of artillery and mortar fire on the southern fronts continued sporadically and the intensive fire on motorized units, patrol and reconnaissance groups of the enemy disrupted the activities of the Saddamist mercenaries. Yesterday, our forces destroyed an engineering vehicle, three observation posts, and five foxholes and trenches of the aggressors situated on the other side of the Arvand Rud. Also yesterday, as a result of the fire of long-range enemy weapons on residential districts of Abadan, four stores, one house, and one school sustained damages. Yesterday, Iraqi planes bombed the town of Baneh, killing one person and wounding another.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,506

LD231856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,506 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The mighty and proud forces of Islam continued the Val-Fajr IV operation up to this morning with

mopping-up operations and further strengthened the captured positions. In some parts of the operational theater, severe clashes took place between our own and enemy forces. During yesterday and last night, our victorious forces repulsed repeated enemy counteroffensives, retained the initiative and superiority of firepower and military strength, and continued destroying enemy units, bases, and equipment. In the Lari heights, the forces of Islam completely repulsed more than four enemy counteroffensives and dealt heavy blows to the Saddamist mercenaries. In the (Balaleh) heights, the mighty combatants of Islam began another offensive at 2300 yesterday, captured and liberated the Sarbiaralah heights, and maintained control over the region.

Yesterday, exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on the northwestern fronts and around Piranshahr, with the combatants of Islam having firepower superiority. Our victorious combatants brought enemy positions and supply routes under artillery fire, preventing enemy movements, silencing enemy heavy weapons fire, and destroying three cannons, a truck, and several light and heavy weapons emplacements, and killing or injuring more than 100 enemy personnel.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, the forces of Islam protected and defended their positions and sectors, opened defensive fire, dispatched patrol groups, setup observation posts, and kept enemy movements under control with full alertness, preventing enemy movements and patrol operations, silencing the enemy heavy weapons fire, destroying four ammunition trucks, an ammunition dump, several slit trenches and foxholes, and two observation posts, and killing or wounding a considerable number of enemy personnel.

On the southern fronts and in Abadan, sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between our own and enemy forces. In every sector, the proud combatants of Islam defended and continued strengthening their positions, opened fire, and dispatched patrol groups, preventing every enemy movement and destroying enemy defensive positions and weapons emplacements, and inflicting losses and casualties on the enemy.

Abadan yesterday was brought under enemy heavy weapons fire, resulting in damage to houses and shops.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Staff Announcement on Iraqi Missile Attacks

LD221719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces announced: The mercenary Saddamist criminals, having suffered degrading defeats in the battlefields, brought the residential areas of Dezful under two missile attacks at 1633 hours. They also fired another missile on the same town at 1737 hours today. They further fired two missiles on Masjed Soleyman at 1630 hours and another missile at 1755 hours today. At 1745 hours, they bombarded the heroic Marivan town. These attacks caused the deaths or wounding of a number of our compatriots.

Early figures received from Dezful show that 10 people have been martyred in the town, with another 55 being wounded. Also 60 homes and 45 shops have been demolished. As for Masjed Soleyman, dozens of residential homes and shops are reported to have been destroyed as a result of the enemy's diabolical raid, with a number of our compatriots having been either killed or wounded.

According to the latest report, the number of martyrs in Masjed Soleyman, as of 1935 hours, totals 73 dead and 278 wounded. The same report adds that relief work, with the cooperation of the inhabitants of Masjed Soleyman, is under way to remove the bodies of possible victims from under the debris. It is further reported that 22 people have been killed in Dezful, with another 150 people being wounded.

Second Phase of Val-Fajr IV Operation Launched

LD241031 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0901 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to the report handed to us a few moments ago, sent from the Val-Fajr IV operational region:

The second phase of Val-Fajr IV operations began last night, bearing the codename, "O God, O God, O God," in the region to the northwest of Marivan on the other side of the international border between Iran and Iraq, under the command of the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada base, the headquarters for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to reports from correspondants of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, the combatants of Islam last night followed the routes leading to enemy emplacements and took positions behind the enemy and very close to them along the operational axes in the border region of Marivan and began a series of coordinated operations. Our forces attacked the abject enemy from (Gurkan) Valley, Masud Hargeneh and (Panjtan) heights, better known as (Kaleh Qandi). In the first hours of the operations, our forces annihilated a large part of the enemy forces and achieved more victories for the Muslim nation of Iran. The same report indicates that the combatants of Islam, at 0005 local time today, Monday, fought with the Saddamist mercenaries stationed on the front lines of the first enemy bases which were formed after their defeat in the first phase and surrounded the enemy from several sides.

According to reports received from the front, the combatants of Islam stationed in the central areas of the operations have destroyed the positions, equipment, and fortifications put up by the Saddamist mercenaries along the route leading to (Kolu) heights situated to the north of Panjwin inside Iraq and have crushed the enemy resistance and are about to liberate the important strategic (Kolu) heights. At the same time, the scene of the battle was lit up by flares fired by the Saddamist mercenaries and the rest of the enemy forces opened fire on the combatants of Islam from the heights opposite (Kolu) heights. But because of

the speedy action of one of our units, their barrage of fire was broken and our forces succeeded in (?capturing) the enemy positions on (Kolu) heights and an important part of the operational region was brought under their control. While the exhausted Saddamist mercenaries continued their futile resistence to the end and awaited their fate in their positions, a group of cowardly forces of Saddam left their positions, trying to escape the regions captured by the forces of Islam. Reports received indicate that the forces of Islam continue their advance along all operational axes -- north, south and east of Panjwin -- toward other enemy positions on heights overlooking Panjwin and, by crossing obstacles put up by the enemy, our forces are capturing enemy positions one after the other.

IRNA Reports Iraqis Use Chemical Weapons
GF221748 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — The Iraqi regime has used chemical weapons against the Islamic forces in order to stop their advance in the Val-Fajr-4 operational region.

IRNA reporters in the battle fronts said that the Iraqi forces fired at least 20 chemical artillery shells on the positions of the Islamic forces Friday in the Sarbish and Hani Baraneh regions north of the Iraqi town of Panjwin.

A military commander in the region confirmed that the Iraqis had deployed toxic weapons in the Val-Fajr-4 operational region but said that they would have no effect on the advance of the Iranian Muslim combatants.

A team of military experts are carrying out tests in areas where the shells have landed.

The Iraqi forces have deployed chemical weapons several times in the past. In one instance on August 9, more than 50 Iranian combatants suffered severe injuries as a result of chemical bombs dropped by Iraqi planes six kilometres west of the Piranshahr-Ravanduz road, in the northwestern border region.

The victims of the bombing were later visited by foreign journalists at Tehran's Luqman Aladowleh Hospital. They complained of painful burns on various parts of their body and severe irritation in their eyes.

According to international law, the use of poisonous and lethal gases, bacteria and chemicals are prohibited in warfare.

Prime Minister, Delegation Leave for DPRK 23 October
LD231919 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi left for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea this afternoon as the leader of a high-ranking delegation. Concerning this trip, our correspondent interviewed the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, you are leading a delegation which is leaving for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Would you please tell us your plans and the objectives you will be pursuing on this trip as well as the formation of the delegation accompanying you?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We have good relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. All through the war we have had good experiences in our relations. At a time when most countries, other than one or two, had limited their relations with us, we had a constructive relation with this country in acquiring equipment as well as in the area of economic relations. Naturally, we now have a very interesting relation with this country. Last year, the Korean prime minister came to Iran and extended an invitation. My trip is taking place on that invitation. The formation of the delegation is both political and economic. Naturally, our brothers will try totake note of that country's experiences. Our contracts with that country will also be followed up in connection with their implementation, and steps will generally be taken to extend our economic and political relations. Basically, this is a friendly trip.

[Correspondent] Returning to the issues in the region, considering the confrontations in Lebanon and the conspiracies of Zionism and imperialism there, the Islamic Republic of Iran put forward a proposal to the United Nations and its members and has had considerable success in trying to have the Zionist regime of Israel expelled from that organization. Would you please tell us your interpretation of the situation and your views on what the Islamic Republic has up to now predicted and proposed in this connection?

[Musavi] The struggle of our nation to liberate Jerusalem is an ideological and all encompassing struggle and will continue on all sides. One of the more important aspects of this struggle is the political side. Fortunately, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our representative at the United Nations are very active in this respect. If you remember, last year Iran made an effort to have Israel expelled from the United Nations, which resulted in a strong reaction by the United States and showed the anti-Zionist spirit of our nation and our government. This year we have done the same. Last year, only nine supported our move. This year, however, because of our dynamic diplomacy, we have been able to [words indistinct] 47. Of these, 42 have defended the Islamic Republic's proposal. We will continue our efforts until Israel is expelled from all international organizations. Of course, we should remember that this action is in addition to our other activities against Zionism in the region. [end recording]